

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

POST OFFICE BOX SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

Docket No. MC2012-26

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO
CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 1
(August 6, 2012)

Chairman's Information Request (CHIR) No. 1 was issued on July 30, 2012. The request sought answers no later than August 3, 2012. As explained in its Motion for Late Acceptance, the Postal Service regrets the delay in providing the attached response. Each question is stated verbatim and is followed by the Postal Service's response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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August 6, 2012

**RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
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1. With respect to the street addressing service described in paragraph A, you indicate that customers "will be able to use the street address to receive most packages and deliveries through private carriers, such as UPS and FedEx."
 - a. Will all carriers be permitted to make deliveries to competitive post office boxes with street addresses? If not, please explain.
 - b. Will local messengers and local businesses be permitted to make deliveries to competitive post office boxes with street addresses? If not, please explain.
 - c. Please identify all restrictions applicable to third-party deliveries to competitive post office boxes.

RESPONSE:

- a. Yes.
- b. Yes.
- c. All normally applicable Domestic Mail Manual ("DMM") restrictions apply to third-party deliveries made to competitive post office boxes with street addresses. As stated in the Customer Agreement for PO Box Service:

"You may use this address only for items that can be delivered through the mail. For instance, you may not use the street address to receive shipments of wine, other alcohol, items over 70 pounds, or items prohibited by Postal Service policy (see Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) Section 601), even though private carriers can carry those items."¹

Additionally, third-party deliveries to competitive post office boxes with street addresses must be accompanied by proof of shipping payment to the third-party carrier (i.e. a prepaid shipping label or a bill of lading).

¹ Docket No. MC2012-26, Response of the United States Postal Service to Order No. 1366, Attachment C, at 1 (July 9, 2012).

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2. If a parcel delivered by a private carrier to the Postal Service is lost before the addressee takes physical possession of the parcel:
 - a. Who is liable for the loss?
 - b. If the competitive post office box customer has elected to participate in Signature on File and the parcel required a signature for delivery, who is liable for the loss?

RESPONSE:

- a -b. The sender or recipient is liable for any loss or damage that occurs after the Postal Service accepts the private carrier delivery. Private carriers are only liable for loss or damage that occurs prior to acceptance by the Postal Service. Since postal insurance cannot be purchased for private carrier deliveries, the Postal Service will not provide any additional coverage after accepting a private carrier item. However, the Postal Service is not currently aware of any private carrier deliveries to competitive post office boxes with street addresses, which have been lost or damaged after being accepted by postal employees.

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3. Will enhanced services be offered at market dominant post office box locations? If not, please explain.

RESPONSE:

No, the service enhancements at issue in this docket are not being offered at market dominant post office box locations. As the Postal Service explained in its response to Order No. 1366, the costs associated with introducing these service enhancements were built into the price increase for competitive post office boxes that the Commission approved in Docket No. CP2012-2.²

² Docket No. MC2012-26, Response of the United States Postal Service to Order No. 1366, Attachment A, at 3 (July 9, 2012).